elimination of apartheid, democratisation of the UN and other issues, with a view to promoting the political and economic interests of its members.

2749. [*Withdrawn*]

Deliberations at the Indo-Srilanka Joint Commission Meeting

2750. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Srilankan Joint Commission held its first meeting in New Delhi, commencing from January 2, 1992;

(b) if so, whether any settlement of Tamil problem in Srilanka was thrashed out at the meeting; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other issues were discussed at the meeting and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The first session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from 5th to 7th January, 1992.

(b) and (c) The Joint Commission aims at promoting bilateral relations in economic, commercial, industrial, science & technology, cultural and other fields. The Joint Commission reviewed the work of its two Sub-Commission on Trade, Investment and Finance and on Cultural, Social and Educational matters which had met in Colombo in October 1991 and gave directions for their future work. The two sides also agreed to set up a third Sub-Commission on Science and Technology in order to give impetus to cooperation in this sector between the Governments and the scientific communities in the two countries. The occasion of the visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister also provided an opportunity to also discuss the ethnic situation in Sri Lanka. Both sides agreed that only a negotiated political settlement within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka would bring a lasting solution to the ethnic problem. We reiterated that the political framework created by the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lanka Constitution following the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement remains a constructive point of reference for any future negotiations.

Representation of Jain Community on the World Body (UNO)

2751. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Mahavir Jain Mission has been approved for association with the United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the procedure laid down for selection of its representatives on this body?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The International Mahavir Jain Mission has been accorded the status of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). The application of this NGO was approved by an internal DPI committee on NGOs on 28.1.92.

(c) The International Mahavir Jain Mission is free to nominate its own representatives to participate in the NGO activities of D.P.I.

Russia-Pakistan Joint Communique on Kashmir

2752. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia in a Joint Communique with Pakistan in December, 1991 has stated that it favours resolution of Kashmir dispute with Pakistan according to International agreement; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. At the end of the visit of Vice-President of Russian Federation, Alexander V. Rutskoi to Pakistan, in the Joint Communique issued in Islamabad on 22 December, 91 the Russian side is stated to have